



BLADE INTERVIEW

# The Marvelous Margaret Cho

**BY MICHAEL SHINAFELT**

**M**argaret Cho is a myth-breaking, stereotype-defying, ass-kicking machine! She is on a roll as master of ceremonies for the LGBT tour *True Colors*, headlined by Cyndi Lauper, and the release of her self-penned feature film *Bam Bam & Celeste* on DVD—not to mention her upcoming Off-Broadway debut belly dancing in “The Sensuous Woman.”

**Blade: Hey, Margaret, the last time I interviewed you, you were laying on the beads of your belly-dancer’s outfit.**

Margaret Cho: Oh, yeah, I remember. You were at the photo shoot for that piece.

**How did you get involved with the *True Colors* tour?**

Cyndi Lauper contacted me and asked me to do it. I could not imagine saying “no” to her.

**Cyndi Lauper is amazing in live performance.**

I have never actually seen her live, but I am really excited, as I am a huge fan. I’ve been one for a long time, so this is really cool because now I will actually get to eat lunch with her, too.

**What significance do you think the tour has for the LGBT community?**

It has tremendous significance. It is a huge festival devoted to us, our music and who we are as people. It is an event that is going to be felt around the world.

**How does it feel to be involved in something like that?**

I am thrilled. I love that I get to see the show every night and participate in it.

**Tell us about *Bam Bam & Celeste*.**

It is a comedy about a gay man, Bam Bam (Bruce Daniels), and his female best friend, Celeste, who finally leave their small town behind and hit the road to New York to win a makeover contest and live the glamorous life.

**The movie puts across a great message, that everyone is beautiful. There is a movement right now to make women**

**who do not have the pencil-thin look feel better about themselves.**

Yeah, I think it’s great. I love that they threw the models off the runway for being too skinny. It is such a wonderful exciting trend.

**Tyra Banks is really spearheading this movement.**

I was on her show, and Tyra is beautiful in all ways, in any way, inside and out. She is doing such a great service to young women out there. What she is doing is really cool and I think it is saving young girls’ lives. It is a deadly thing when people try to obtain a body ideal that is way out of

Having been in comedy for so many years... well, I have been around guys mostly. I am around dancers now and I really love it.

**Your love of belly dancing had to be about more than just body image.**

It is, absolutely. Being around a group of women has an amazing energy to it.

**“Dictators Suck Ass” was the name of a Web site in *Bam Bam & Celeste*. Name some dictators you think suck ass.**

George Bush, definitely. There are lots of them: Idi Amin, who has become very popular since the film *The Last King of Scotland*. There is Adolph Hitler. To me, this sort of manifestation of power and

greed – and how they warp people and destroy nations – is very fascinating. It’s really what is happening right now in our country with the Bush administration. It’s ridiculous.

**Speaking of politics, a friend wanted me to ask you if you are going to become less militant in your next show.**

I think so. It’s less about politics lately and more about living and having fun. We’ll see.

**“Militant” is a term that frightens some people—“political,” not as much.**

Yeah, that is true; I’m *The One That I Want* is political but not militant. Like I said, we will see where the next show goes. I am working on material for it right now.

**The relationship between you and Alan Cumming in *Bam Bam & Celeste* is very**

sweet.

Oh, I love him. He is such a darling.

**There is a nifty “Angels in America” parody too.**

“Prepare” yourself to look glamorous because everyone is beautiful.

**Thank you so much. Nice chatting with you.**

Nice chatting with you, too.

*Keep up with the amazing Margaret Cho at [www.MargaretCho.com](http://www.MargaretCho.com). Watch for Bam Bam & Celeste to hit DVD shelves on Aug. 14.*



PHOTOS BY: LANCE PERKINS

**Left: Margaret Cho hosts the *True Colors* concert at MGM Grand Las Vegas. Right: Showing off her tats on the red carpet at Studio 54 after-party.**

reach for them. The work she is doing is wonderful.

**Rumor has it “The Sensuous Woman” is going to be Off-Broadway in the fall.**

Yes, hopefully, it should be opening in October.

**I know you love belly dancing. What do you get from it?**

Well, I really like what it does for me physically. It helps me to lose weight. It’s also just good for me. It brings me into a world of women. That is really a great thing—I love hanging around women.